



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/876,437	06/16/1997	MARIANTHI GIAKOUMAKIS		5017

7590 11/03/2005
Marianthi Giakoumakis
321 Caisse
Montreal, Quebec, H4G 3M3
CANADA

EXAMINER

CAMPEN, KELLY SCAGGS

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3624

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	08/876,437	GIAKOUMAKIS, MARIANTHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kelly Campen	3624	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Kelly Campen. (3)_____.

(2) GIAKOUMAKIS, MARIANTHI. (4)_____.

Date of Interview: 28 October 2005.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☐ No.
If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: _____.

Identification of prior art discussed: _____.


Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☒ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: see attached.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.


Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

As the claims now stand and in view of the developed record in this application, the claims are not patentable for the reasons advanced in the Final Rejection.

If applicant files an affidavit as to the efficacy of your method as claimed, it will be entered either for allowing the application or for purposes of appeal.

If the affidavit does not place this application in condition for allowance, the affidavit will be treated in the Examiner's Answer that would be in response to your Appeal Brief.

The purpose of this communication is to clarify several points

1. The claims as they stand now are under Final Rejection.
2. The examiner does not see any allowable subject matter in this application.
3. With regard to any affidavit, no opinion on the affidavit will be rendered prior to the entry of any affidavit in your application.

Attached is a copy of MPEP section 716 of 35 U.S.C. 1.132 affidavits (attachment A). Also attached is a copy of MPEP section 1206 on how to file an Appeal (attachment B) and pre-Appeal conference information (see attachment C).

Applicant is reminded that any affidavit **MUST** be directed to the claimed invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kelly Campen whose telephone number is (571) 272-6740. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on (571) 272-6747. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Kelly S. Campen



VINCENT MILLIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

716 Affidavits or Declarations Traversing Rejections, 37 CFR 1.132

37 CFR 1.132. Affidavits or declarations traversing rejections or objections.

When any claim of an application or a patent under reexamination is rejected or objected to, any evidence submitted to traverse the rejection or objection on a basis not otherwise provided for must be by way of an oath or declaration under this section.

It is the responsibility of the primary examiner to personally review and decide whether affidavits or declarations submitted under 37 CFR 1.132 for the purpose of traversing grounds of rejection are responsive to the rejection and present sufficient facts to overcome the rejection.

This rule sets forth the general policy of the Office consistently followed for a long period of time of receiving affidavit evidence traversing rejections or objections. All affidavits or declarations presented which do not fall within or under other specific rules are to be treated or considered as falling under this rule.

Form paragraph 7.65 or 7.66 and any of form paragraphs 7.66.01 through 7.66.05, as appropriate, should be used to comment on a 37 CFR 1.132 affidavit or declaration.

MATTERS HANDLED CONCURRENTLY WITH APPEAL

Attachment B

The Office does not acknowledge receipt of a notice of appeal by separate letter. However, if a self-addressed postcard is included with the notice of appeal, it will be date stamped and mailed.

Form paragraphs 12.01-12.04 may be used to indicate defects in a notice of appeal.

¶ 12.01 Notice of Appeal Unacceptable - Fee Unpaid

The notice of appeal filed on [1] is not acceptable because the appeal fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(b) was not filed, or was not timely filed.

Applicant may obtain an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) to file the appropriate appeal fee. The date on which the notice of appeal, the appeal fee, the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a), and the petition fee are filed will be the date of the reply and also the date for determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. In no case may an applicant reply later than the maximum SIX MONTH statutory period or obtain an extension pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) for more than FIVE MONTHS beyond the date of reply set in an Office action.

¶ 12.02 Notice of Appeal Unacceptable - No 2nd Rejection

The notice of appeal filed on [1] is not acceptable under 37 CFR 1.191(a) because [2].

Examiner Note

In bracket 2, insert the following wording, as appropriate:

--there has been no second or final rejection in this patent application--;

--there has been no second or final rejection in this *ex parte* reexamination proceeding on a patent that issued from an original application filed in the United States before November 29, 1999--; or

--there has been no final rejection (37 CFR 1.113) of the claims in this *ex parte* reexamination proceeding on a patent that issued from an original application filed in the United States on or after November 29, 1999--.

¶ 12.03 Notice of Appeal Unacceptable - Not Timely Filed

The notice of appeal filed on [1] is not acceptable because it was filed after the expiration of the period set in the prior Office action. This application will become abandoned unless applicant obtains an extension under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the notice of appeal, the appeal fee, the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a), and the petition fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) are filed will be the date of the reply and also the date for determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. In no case may an applicant reply later than the maximum SIX MONTH statutory period or obtain an extension pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) for more than FIVE MONTHS beyond the date of reply set in an Office action.

¶ 12.04 Notice of Appeal Unacceptable - Claims Allowed

The notice of appeal filed on [1] is not acceptable because a notice of allowability was mailed by the Office on [2].

1206 Appeal Brief

37 CFR 1.192. Appellant's brief.

(a) Appellant must, within two months from the date of the notice of appeal under § 1.191 or within the time allowed for reply to the action from which the appeal was taken, if such time is later, file a brief in triplicate. The brief must be accompanied by the fee set forth in § 1.17(c) and must set

forth the authorities and arguments on which appellant will rely to maintain the appeal. Any arguments or authorities not included in the brief will be refused consideration by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, unless good cause is shown.

(b) On failure to file the brief, accompanied by the requisite fee, within the time allowed, the appeal shall stand dismissed.

(c) The brief shall contain the following items under appropriate headings and in the order indicated below unless the brief is filed by an applicant who is not represented by a registered practitioner:

(1) *Real party in interest.* A statement identifying the real party in interest, if the party named in the caption of the brief is not the real party in interest.

(2) *Related appeals and interferences.* A statement identifying by number and filing date all other appeals or interferences known to appellant, the appellant's legal representative, or assignee which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) *Status of claims.* A statement of the status of all the claims, pending or cancelled, and identifying the claims appealed.

(4) *Status of amendments.* A statement of the status of any amendment filed subsequent to final rejection.

(5) *Summary of invention.* A concise explanation of the invention defined in the claims involved in the appeal, which shall refer to the specification by page and line number, and to the drawing, if any, by reference characters.

(6) *Issues.* A concise statement of the issues presented for review.

(7) *Grouping of claims.* For each ground of rejection which appellant contests and which applies to a group of two or more claims, the Board shall select a single claim from the group and shall decide the appeal as to the ground of rejection on the basis of that claim alone unless a statement is included that the claims of the group do not stand or fall together and, in the argument under paragraph (c)(8) of this section, appellant explains why the claims of the group are believed to be separately patentable. Merely pointing out differences in what the claims cover is not an argument as to why the claims are separately patentable.

(8) *Argument.* The contentions of appellant with respect to each of the issues presented for review in paragraph (c)(6) of this section, and the basis therefor, with citations of the authorities, statutes, and parts of the record relied on. Each issue should be treated under a separate heading.

(i) For each rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, the argument shall specify the errors in the rejection and how the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 is complied with, including, as appropriate, how the specification and drawings, if any,

(A) Describe the subject matter defined by each of the rejected claims,

(B) Enable any person skilled in the art to make and use the subject matter defined by each of the rejected claims, and

(C) Set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his or her invention.

(ii) For each rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, the argument shall specify the errors in the rejection and how the claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

(iii) For each rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102, the argument shall specify the errors in the rejection and why the rejected claims are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102, including any specific limitations in the rejected claims which are not described in the prior art relied upon in the rejection.

(iv) For each rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103, the argument shall specify the errors in the rejection and, if appropriate, the specific limitations in the rejected claims which are not described in the prior art relied on in the rejection, and shall explain how such limitations render the claimed subject matter unobvious over the prior art. If the rejection is based upon a combination of references, the argument shall explain why the references, taken as a whole, do not suggest the claimed subject matter, and shall include, as may be appropriate, an explanation of why features disclosed in one reference may not properly be combined with features disclosed in another reference. A general argument that all the limitations are not described in a single reference does not satisfy the requirements of this paragraph.

(v) For any rejection other than those referred to in paragraphs (c)(8)(i) to (iv) of this section, the argument shall specify the errors in the rejection and the specific limitations in the rejected claims, if appropriate, or other reasons, which cause the rejection to be in error.

(9) *Appendix.* An appendix containing a copy of the claims involved in the appeal.

(d) If a brief is filed which does not comply with all the requirements of paragraph (c) of this section, appellant will be notified of the reasons for non-compliance and provided with a period of one month within which to file an amended brief. If appellant does not file an amended brief during the one-month period, or files an amended brief which does not overcome all the reasons for non-compliance stated in the notification, the appeal will stand dismissed.

Where the brief is not filed, but within the period allowed for filing the brief an amendment is presented which places the application in condition for allowance, the

amendment may be entered since the application retains its pending status during said period. Amendments should not be included in the appeal brief. Amendments should be filed as separate papers. See MPEP § 1207, § 1215.01, and § 1215.02.

TIME FOR FILING APPEAL BRIEF

37 CFR 1.192(a) provides 2 months from the date of the notice of appeal for the appellant to file an appeal brief. In an *ex parte* reexamination proceeding, the time period can be extended only under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.550(c). See also MPEP § 2274.

The usual period of time in which appellant must file his or her brief is 2 months from the date of appeal. The Office date of receipt of the notice of appeal (and not the date indicated on any Certificate of Mailing under 37 CFR 1.8) is the date from which this 2 month time period is measured. See MPEP § 512. However, 37 CFR 1.192(a) alternatively permits the brief to be filed "within the time allowed for reply to the action from which the appeal was taken, if such time is later." These time periods may be extended under 37 CFR 1.136(a), and if 37 CFR 1.136(a) is not available, under 37 CFR 1.136(b) for extraordinary circumstances.

In the event that the appellant finds that he or she is unable to file a brief within the time period allotted by the rules, he or she may file a petition, with fee, to the Technology Center (TC), requesting additional time under 37 CFR 1.136(a). Additional time in excess of 5 months will not be granted unless extraordinary circumstances are involved under 37 CFR 1.136(b). The time extended is added to the calendar day of the original period, as opposed to being added to the day it would have been due when said last day is a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday.

If after an appeal has been filed, but prior to the date for submitting a brief, an interference is declared, appellant's brief need not be filed while the interference is pending, unless the administrative patent judge has consented to prosecution of the application concurrently with the interference. See MPEP § 2315. Absent such concurrent prosecution, the examiner may, after the interference has terminated and the files have been returned to him or her, (A) set a 2-month period for filing the brief, or (B) withdraw the final rejection of the appealed claims in order to enter an additional rejection on a ground arising out of the interference. See, for example, MPEP § 2363.03. Also, if the appellant was the losing party in the interference, claims which were designated as corresponding to the lost count or counts will stand finally disposed of under 37 CFR 1.663.

When an application is revived after abandonment for failure on the part of the appellant to take appropriate action after final rejection, and the petition to revive was accompanied by a notice of appeal, appellant has 2 months, from the mailing date of the Commissioner's affirmative decision on the petition, in which to file the appeal brief. The time period for filing the appeal brief may be extended under 37 CFR 1.136.

With the exception of a declaration of an interference or suggestion of claims for an interference and timely copying of claims for an interference, the appeal ordinarily will be dismissed if the brief is not filed within the period provided by 37 CFR 1.192(a) or within such additional time as may be properly extended.

A brief must be filed to preserve appellant's right to the appealed claims, notwithstanding circumstances such as:

- (A) the possibility or imminence of an interference involving the subject application, but not resulting in withdrawal of the final rejection prior to the brief's due date;
- (B) the filing of a petition to invoke the supervisory authority of the Commissioner under 37 CFR 1.181;

(C) the filing of an amendment, even if it is one which the examiner previously has indicated may place one or more claims in condition for allowance, unless the examiner, in acting on the amendment, disposes of all issues on appeal;

(D) the receipt of a letter from the examiner stating that prosecution is suspended, without the examiner withdrawing the final rejection from which appeal has been taken or suggesting claims for an interference, and without an administrative patent judge declaring an interference with the subject application.

Although failure to file the brief within the permissible time will result in dismissal of the appeal, if any claims stand allowed, the application does not become abandoned by the dismissal, but is returned to the examiner for action on the allowed claims. See MPEP § 1215.04. If there are no allowed claims, the application is abandoned as of the date the brief was due. Claims which have been objected to as dependent from a rejected claim do not stand allowed. In a reexamination proceeding failure to file the brief will result in the issuance of the certificate under 37 CFR 1.570.

If the time for filing a brief has passed and the application has consequently become abandoned, the applicant may petition to revive the application, as in other cases of abandonment, and to reinstate the appeal; if the appeal is dismissed, but the application is not abandoned, the petition would be to reinstate the claims and the appeal, but a showing equivalent to that in a petition to revive under 37 CFR 1.137 is required. In either event, a proper brief must be filed before the petition will be considered on its merits.

Where the dismissal of the appeal is believed to be in error, filing a petition, pointing out the error, may be sufficient.

A fee under 37 CFR 1.17(c) is required when the brief is filed. 37 CFR 1.192(a) requires the submission of three copies of the appeal brief.

APPEAL BRIEF CONTENT

The brief, as well as every other paper relating to an appeal, should indicate the number of the Technology Center (TC) to which the application or patent under reexamination is assigned and the application or reexamination control number. When the brief is received, it is forwarded to the TC where it is entered in the file, and referred to the examiner.

An appellant's brief must be responsive to every ground of rejection stated by the examiner.

Where an appeal brief fails to address any ground of rejection, appellant shall be notified by the examiner that he or she must correct the defect by filing a brief (in triplicate) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.192(c). See 37 CFR 1.192(d). Form paragraphs 12.76-12.76.06 and 12.78, or form PTOL-462, "Notification of Non-Compliance with 37 CFR 1.192(c)," may be used to notify the appellant of the deficiency. Oral argument at a hearing will not remedy such deficiency of a brief. The fact that appellant may consider a ground to be clearly improper does not justify a failure to point out to the Board the reasons for that belief.

The mere filing of paper entitled as a brief will not necessarily be considered to be in compliance with 37 CFR 1.192(c). The rule requires that the brief must set forth the authorities and arguments relied upon. Since it is essential that the Board should be provided with a brief fully stating the position of the appellant with respect to each issue involved in the appeal so that no search of the record is required in order to determine that position, 37 CFR 1.192(c) requires that the brief contain specific items, as discussed below.

An exception to the requirement that all the items specified in 37 CFR 1.192(c) be included in the brief is made if the application or reexamination proceeding is being prosecuted by the appellant *pro se*, i.e., there is no attorney or agent of record, and the

brief was neither prepared nor signed by a registered attorney or agent. The brief of a *pro se* appellant which does not contain all of the items, (1) to (9), specified in 37 CFR 1.192(c) will be accepted as long as it substantially complies with the requirements of items (1), (2), and (8). If the brief of a *pro se* appellant is accepted, it will be presumed that all the claims of a rejected group of claims stand or fall together unless an argument is included in the brief that presents reasons as to why the appellant considers one or more of the claims in the rejected group to be separately patentable from the other claims in the group.

A distinction must be made between the lack of any argument and the presentation of arguments which carry no conviction. In the former case, notification of a defective appeal brief is in order, while in the latter case, the application or reexamination is forwarded to the Board for a decision on the merits. As noted above, the examiner may use form paragraphs 12.76-12.76.06 and 12.78, or form PTOL-462, "Notification of Non-Compliance with 37 CFR 1.192(c)," to notify appellant that the appeal brief is defective.

If in his or her brief, appellant relies on some reference, he or she is expected to provide the Board with three copies of it.

The specific items required by 37 CFR 1.192(c) are:

(1) *Real party in interest.* A statement identifying the real party in interest, if the party named in the caption of the brief is not the real party in interest. If appellant does not name a real party in interest, the examiner will assume that the party named in the caption of the brief is the real party in interest, i.e., the owner at the time the brief is being filed.

The identification of the real party in interest will allow members of the Board to comply with ethics regulations associated with working in matters in which the member has a financial interest to avoid any potential conflict of interest. While the examiner will assume that the real party in interest is the individual or individuals identified in the caption when the real party in interest is not explicitly set out in the brief, nevertheless, the Board may require the appellant to explicitly name the real party in interest. See MPEP § 1210.01.

(2) *Related appeals and interferences.* A statement identifying by application number and filing date all other appeals or interferences known to appellant, the appellant's legal representative, or assignee which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal. The appeal or interference number should also be listed. The statement is not limited to copending applications. If appellant does not identify any other appeals or interferences, the examiner will presume that there are none. While the examiner will assume that there are no related cases when no related case is explicitly set out in the brief, nevertheless, the Board may require the appellant to explicitly identify any related case. See MPEP § 1210.01.

(3) *Status of Claims.* A statement of the status of all the claims in the application, or patent under reexamination, i.e., for each claim in the case, appellant must state whether it is cancelled, allowed, rejected, etc. Each claim on appeal must be identified.

(4) *Status of Amendments.* A statement of the status of any amendment filed subsequent to final rejection, i.e., whether or not the amendment has been acted upon by the examiner, and if so, whether it was entered, denied entry, or entered in part. This statement should be of the status of the amendment as understood by the appellant.

Items (3) and (4) are included in 37 CFR 1.192(c) to avoid confusion as to which claims are on appeal, and the precise wording of those claims, particularly where the appellant has sought to amend claims after final rejection. The inclusion of items (3) and (4) in the brief will advise the examiner of what the appellant considers the status of the claims and post-final rejection amendments to be, allowing any disagreement on these questions to be resolved before the appeal is taken up for decision by the Board.

(5) *Summary of Invention.* A concise explanation of the invention defined in the claims involved in the appeal. This explanation is required to refer to the specification by page and line number, and, if there is a drawing, to the drawing by reference characters. Where applicable, it is preferable to read the appealed claims on the specification and any drawing. While reference to page and line number of the specification may require somewhat more detail than simply summarizing the invention, it is considered important to enable the Board to more quickly determine where the claimed subject matter is described in the application.

(6) *Issues.* A concise statement of the issues presented for review. Each stated issue should correspond to a separate ground of rejection which appellant wishes the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences to review. While the statement of the issues must be concise, it should not be so concise as to omit the basis of each issue. For example, the statement of an issue as "Whether claims 1 and 2 are unpatentable" would not comply with 37 CFR 1.192(c)(6). Rather, the basis of the alleged unpatentability would have to be stated, e.g., "Whether claims 1 and 2 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Smith in view of Jones," or "Whether claims 1 and 2 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as being based on a nonenabling disclosure." The statement would be limited to the issues presented, and should not include any argument concerning the merits of those issues.

(7) *Grouping of Claims.* For each ground of rejection which appellant contests and which applies to a group of two or more claims, the Board shall select a single claim from the group and shall decide the appeal as to the ground of rejection on the basis of that claim alone, unless a statement is included that the claims of the group do not stand or fall together and, in the argument section of the brief (37 CFR 1.192(c)(8)), appellant explains why the claims of the group are believed to be separately patentable. Merely pointing out differences in what the claims cover is not an argument as to why the claims are separately patentable. If an appealed ground of rejection applies to more than one claim and appellant considers the rejected claims to be separately patentable, 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7) requires appellant to state that the claims do not stand or fall together, and to present in the appropriate part or parts of the argument under 37 CFR 1.192(c)(8) the reasons why they are considered separately patentable.

The absence of such a statement and argument is a concession by the applicant that, if the ground of rejection were sustained as to any one of the rejected claims, it will be equally applicable to all of them. 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7) is consistent with the practice of the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit indicated in such cases as *In re Young*, 927 F.2d 588, 18 USPQ2d 1089 (Fed. Cir. 1991); *In re Nielson*, 816 F.2d 1567, 2 USPQ2d 1525 (Fed. Cir. 1987); *In re King*, 801 F.2d 1324, 231 USPQ 136 (Fed. Cir. 1986); and *In re Sernaker*, 702 F.2d 989, 217 USPQ 1 (Fed. Cir. 1983). 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7) requires the inclusion of reasons in order to avoid unsupported assertions of separate patentability. The reasons may be included in the appropriate portion of the "Argument" section of the brief. For example, if claims 1 to 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 and appellant considers claim 4 to be separately patentable from claims 1 to 3, he or she should so state in the "Grouping of claims" section of the brief, and then give the reasons for separate patentability in the 35 U.S.C. 102 portion of the "Argument" section (i.e., under 37 CFR 1.192(c)(8)(iii)).

In the absence of a separate statement that the claims do not stand or fall together, the Board panel assigned to the case will normally select the broadest claim in a group and will consider only that claim, even though the group may contain two broad claims, such as "ABCDE" and "ABCDF." The same would be true in a case where there are both broad method and apparatus claims on appeal in the same group. The rationale behind the rule, as amended, is to make the appeal process as efficient as possible. Thus, while the Board will consider each separately argued claim, the work of the Board can be done

in a more efficient manner by selecting a single claim from a group of claims when the appellant does not meet the requirements of 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7).

It should be noted that 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7) requires the appellant to perform two affirmative acts in his or her brief in order to have the separate patentability of a plurality of claims subject to the same rejection considered. The appellant must (A) state that the claims do not stand or fall together and (B) present arguments why the claims subject to the same rejection are separately patentable. Where the appellant does neither, the claims will be treated as standing or falling together. Where, however, the appellant (A) omits the statement required by 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7) yet presents arguments in the argument section of the brief, or (B) includes the statement required by 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7) to the effect that one or more claims do not stand or fall together (i.e., that they are separately patentable) yet does not offer argument in support thereof in the "Argument" section of the brief, the appellant should be notified of the noncompliance as per 37 CFR 1.192(d). *Ex parte Schier*, 21 USPQ2d 1016 (Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 1991); *Ex parte Ohsumi*, 21 USPQ2d 1020 (Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 1991).

(8) *Argument*. The appellant's contentions with respect to each of the issues presented for review in 37 CFR 1.192(c) (6), and the basis for those contentions, including citations of authorities, statutes, and parts of the record relied on, should be presented in this section.

Included in this paragraph are five subparagraphs, (i) to (v). Subparagraphs (i) to (iv) concern the grounds of rejection most commonly involved in *ex parte* appeals, namely, 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraphs, 35 U.S.C. 102, and 35 U.S.C. 103. Subparagraph (v) is a general provision concerning grounds of rejection not covered by subparagraphs (i) to (iv).

The purpose of subparagraphs (i) to (iv) is to ensure that the appellant's argument concerning each appealed ground of rejection will include a discussion of the questions relevant to that ground. Compliance with the requirements of the particular subparagraphs which are pertinent to the grounds of rejection involved in an appeal will be beneficial both to the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office and appellants. It will not only facilitate a decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences by enabling the Board to determine more quickly and precisely the appellant's position on the relevant issues, but also will help appellants to focus their arguments on those issues. For each rejection not falling under subparagraphs (i) to (iv), subparagraph (v) provides that the argument should specify the specific limitations in the rejected claims, if appropriate, or other reasons, which cause the rejection to be in error. This language recognizes that for some grounds of rejection, it may not be necessary to specify particular claim limitations, for example, a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101, on the ground that the claims are directed to nonstatutory subject matter, as in *Ex parte Hibberd*, 227 USPQ 443 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1985).

37 CFR 1.192(a) contains the following sentence:

Any arguments or authorities not included in the brief will be refused consideration by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, unless good cause is shown.

This sentence emphasizes that all arguments and authorities which an appellant wishes the Board to consider should be included in the brief. It should be noted that arguments not presented in the brief and made for the first time at the oral hearing are not normally entitled to consideration. *In re Chiddix*, 209 USPQ 78 (Comm'r Pat. 1980); *Rosenblum v. Hiroshima*, 220 USPQ 383 (Comm'r Pat. 1983).

37 CFR 1.192(a) is not intended to preclude the filing of a supplemental paper if new authority should become available or relevant after the brief was filed. An example of such circumstances would be where a pertinent decision of a court or other tribunal was

not published until after the brief was filed.

(9) *Appendix*. An appendix containing a copy of the claims involved in the appeal.

The copy of the claims required in the brief Appendix by 37 CFR 1.192(c)(9) should be a clean copy and should not include any markings such as brackets or underlining. See MPEP § 1454 for the presentation of the copy of the claims in a reissue application.

The copy of the claims should be double spaced and the appendix should start on a new page.

37 CFR 1.192(c) merely specifies the minimum requirements for a brief, and does not prohibit the inclusion of any other material which an appellant may consider necessary or desirable, for example, a list of references, table of contents, table of cases, etc. A brief is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.192(c) as long as it includes items (1) to (9) in the order set forth (with the appendix, item (9), at the end).

REVIEW OF BRIEF BY EXAMINER

The question of whether a brief complies with the rule is a matter within the jurisdiction of the examiner. 37 CFR 1.192(d) provides that if a brief is filed which does not comply with all the requirements of paragraph (c), the appellant will be notified of the reasons for noncompliance. Appellant will be given the longest of any of the following time periods to correct the defect(s):

(A) 1 month or 30 days from the mailing of the notification of non-compliance, whichever is longer;

(B) within the time period for reply to the action from which appeal has been taken; or

(C) within 2 months from the date of the notice of appeal under 37 CFR 1.191.

Extensions of time may be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a) or 1.136(b). The examiner may use the form paragraphs set forth below or form PTOL-462, "Notification of Non-Compliance with 37 CFR 1.192(c)," to notify appellant that the appeal brief is defective. The appeal will be dismissed if the appellant does not timely file an amended brief, or files an amended brief which does not overcome all the reasons for noncompliance of which the appellant was notified.

Under 37 CFR 1.192(d), the appellant may file an amended brief to correct any deficiencies in the original brief. Moreover, if appellant disagrees with the examiner's holding of noncompliance, a petition under 37 CFR 1.181 may be filed.

Once the brief has been filed, a petition to suspend proceedings may be considered on its merits, but will be granted only in exceptional cases, such as where the writing of the examiner's answer would be fruitless or the proceedings would work an unusual hardship on the appellant.

For a reply brief, see MPEP § 1208.03.

Form paragraphs 12.08-12.13, 12.16, 12.17, and 12.69-12.78, or Form PTOL-462, "Notification of Non-Compliance with 37 CFR 1.192(c)," may be used concerning the appeal brief.

¶ 12.08 Appeal Dismissed - Brief Fee Unpaid, No Allowed Claims

The appeal under 37 CFR 1.191 is dismissed because the fee for filing the brief, as required under 37 CFR 1.17(c) was not submitted or timely submitted and the period for obtaining an extension of time to file the brief under 37 CFR 1.136(a) has expired.

As a result of this dismissal, the application is ABANDONED since there are no allowed claims.

attachment

NEW PRE-APPEAL BRIEF CONFERENCE PRACTICE

1296 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office, Vol. 2 (July 12, 2005)

OVERVIEW & TIPS FOR PRACTICE

July 2005



New Pilot Program:

Request a
Pre-Appeal Brief
Conference
With a

Notice of Appeal

(except under patent reexamination)

Goals

- Avoid Filing Appeal Brief When You Can:
- Or, Alternatively, Reduce Size and Cost of An Appeal Brief
 - Identify clearly improper rejections because of factual errors
 - Identify clear absence of *prima facie* case
 - Narrow focus to true issues in controversy

Why This Pilot Program?

- TC's already provide appeal conferences after the submission of an Appeal Brief
- Over half of the appeal conferences result in allowance or reopening of prosecution
- Thus, this pre-brief review procedure may eliminate, or reduce, the time and expense to prepare an Appeal Brief and expedite the prosecution process.

Should You Request a Pre-Brief Conference?

- Yes – IF all or some of the rejections of record
 - Are CLEARLY improper and without basis
 - Are CLEARLY based on factual or legal error
- No – IF the rejections of record
 - Articulate a *prima facie* case that requires further evidence, or interpretation of the claims; of the applied art; or of other evidence, to rebut

Should You Request a Pre-Brief Conference?

- This program is not intended to replace current after final and appeal practice
- It should not be used on a routine basis as a way to prolong prosecution
- Request a conference only when you have a clear case of error supported by evidence

How To Potentially Avoid Even Needing This Procedure

Request Reconsideration
of the Final Rejection

Clearly Show the Errors
To the Examiner in an

After Final Communication

Before Filing Notice of Appeal

How to request a Pre-Brief Conference

Remember

- Use the USPTO Form PTO/SB/33, or Label your Request Form as “Pre-Appeal Brief Request For Review”
- Submit WITH Notice of Appeal, as a SEPARATE Document
- No Amendments, Affidavits, or Other Evidence
- No Request Fee, But Notice of Appeal Fee Still Required
- No More Than Five (5) Pages of Arguments Attached to the Request Form
- CLEAR, CONCISE, FOCUSED

Form PTO/SB/33

Doc Code: AP.PRE.REQ

PTO/SB/33 (97-04)

Approved for use through xx/xx/200x. OMB 0651-00xx
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW		Docket Number (Optional)	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)] on _____ Signature _____ Typed or printed name _____		Application Number _____ Filed _____ First Named Inventor _____ Art Unit _____ Examiner _____	
Applicant requests review of the final rejection in the above-identified application. No amendments are being filed with this request. This request is being filed with a notice of appeal. The review is requested for the reason(s) stated on the attached sheet(s). Note: No more than five (5) pages may be provided.			
I am the <input type="checkbox"/> applicant/inventor. <input type="checkbox"/> assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed (Form PTO/SB/96) <input type="checkbox"/> attorney or agent of record. Registration number _____ <input type="checkbox"/> attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34. Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34 _____		Signature _____ Typed or printed name _____ Telephone number _____ Date _____	
NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Total of _____ forms are submitted.			

This collection of information is required by 35 U.S.C. 132. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by this public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11, 1.14 and 41.6. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Form PTO/SB/33

Doc Code: AP PRE REQ

Under the Patent and Trademark Act of 1980, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Approved for use through electronic submission of information to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Docket Number (Optional)

PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)]

Application Number Filed
First Named Inventor

Signature _____

AI Unit Examiner

Typed or printed name _____

Applicant requests review of the final rejection in the above-identified application. No amendments are being filed with this request.

This request is being filed with a notice of appeal.

The review is requested for the reason(s) stated on the attached sheet(s).

Note: No more than five (5) pages may be provided.

I am the

☐ applicant/inventor

Signature _____

☐ attorney or agent of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.730 is enclosed (Form PTO/SB/36)

Typed or printed name _____

☐ attorney or agent of record.

Telephone number _____

☐ attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34.

Date _____

Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34 _____

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest of their representatives are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below.

☐ Total of _____ forms are submitted.

This collection of information is required by 35 U.S.C. 122. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the USPTO in process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11, 1.14 and 41.6. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the material of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing the burden should be directed to the Office of Management and Enterprise Services, Paperwork Reduction Project (35 U.S.C. 122), Washington, DC 20540. (OMB No. 3510-0047) USPTO FORM 101 (PTO/SB/33) (Rev. 10-1999) (DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450)

If you need assistance in completing this form, call 1-800-PTO-4179 and select option 2.

Where Do You Send the Request?

- Send the Request WITH the NOTICE of APPEAL to one of

Mail

MAIL STOP AF
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Hand Carry

USPTO Customer Service Window,
ATTN: Mail Stop AF
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Facsimile

(571) 273-8300



What Does the USPTO Do?

- Technology Center (TC) convenes a panel
 - TC managers and conferees experienced in the pertinent field of technology
 - Includes a SPE and examiner of record
- Panel reviews rejections identified by request, arguments submitted with the request, and application file
- Panel decides if an issue for appeal is present
- No applicant or representative participation

What Should Arguments Contain?

**Clear Errors
in
Examiner's
Rejection**

And/Or

**Omissions of
element
essential for a
prima facie
case in
Examiner's
Rejection**

What Should Arguments Contain?

Examples --

Reference's date is clearly not an anticipatory date

A claim element that is clearly not present in applied art is not included in the examiner's analysis

Support in the disclosure is clearly found contrary to a 112(1) rejection

No motivational statement is provided in a 103 rejection

No evidentiary basis for a 103 motivation is provided in the rejection

Inventive entity is clearly not one to which reference can be applied

What Should Argument NOT Contain?

Examples of what NOT to argue because the panel will consider it more appropriate for consideration during appeal --

Reference's construction of terms differs from claims

A claim element is not in applied art although the examiner has shown where it is so asserted to be in the rejection

Dictionary definitions of terms at odds with rejection

Secondary considerations or teaching away in 103 rejections

Unseasonable traversal of evidence by administrative notice

Characteristics of POSITA* rendering 103 improper

What Should Argument NOT Contain?

Examples of what NOT to argue because the panel will consider it more appropriate for consideration during appeal --

Boilerplate arguments and citations of case law

Rehash or “cut and paste” of arguments presented in response to final rejection with no further explanation of what facts or evidence the rejection lacks

Spurious arguments: age of references, number of references, bodily incorporation, features which are not claimed, motivation to combine different that applicant’s motivation, piecemeal analysis of references, etc.

Panel's Decision

- Decision will relate claims' status and simply state one of the following:
 - Application remains under appeal
 - Prosecution is reopened
 - Application is allowed
 - Request is noncompliant and is dismissed

No analysis will accompany the decision – appellant provides analysis and conferees agree or disagree

When Will The Decision Be Mailed?

Generally, decisions will be made and mailed within 45 days of receiving the request.

Put the stats in here

What Do You Do If Application Remains Under Appeal After Decision, or If Request is Dismissed?

- Proceed by filing an appeal brief
 - There is no request for reconsideration practice because the appeal process remains in effect and presents the next level of consideration
- File RCE or Continuation
- Abandon

How Long Do You Have To File Appeal Brief Following Decision?

- You Have the Longer of
 - Time Remaining From Notice of Appeal
- OR
- One Month From Mailing of Decision

Usual time extensions may be obtained by fee

How Long Will This Procedure Be In Effect

The procedure is under pilot study for at least
six months beginning July, 2005

It will be re-evaluated at the termination of the
pilot study.

What If You Want to Enter an Amendment After Final?

Amendments and Affidavits after final rejection must be submitted and their entry resolved prior to the request for a pre-appeal brief conference.

Amendments and Affidavits with or after Notice of Appeal
Terminate Any Pre-Appeal Brief Conference Proceedings

What If You Want to Enter Some Other Action After A Request?

Any RCE, continuation, or abandonment,
any Appeal Brief, any amendment,
any affidavit, or any other form of evidence,
submitted after making a request for a pre-appeal
brief conference, will cause the request to be
dismissed.

*An IDS having no bearing on the request may be submitted, but
will not be considered by the panel*

What If You Want to Enter a Supplement To Your Arguments?

No supplemental arguments will be accepted.

Supplemental replies will not be entered or
considered in the proceedings.